

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A sheet-fed press including an intermediate cylinder which is operable to individually convey [[a]] sheets of varied lengths, said intermediate cylinder comprising:

a main body;

a plurality of suction boxes formed in said main body at positions, which are individually set based on the lengths of the sheets, different with respect to a rotation axis of said main body;

a plurality of suction bores formed in said suction boxes so that they are open at an outer peripheral surface of said main body;

suction force generation means for generating suction force within said suction boxes;

switching means for selectively switching connections between said plurality of suction boxes and said suction force generation means corresponding to the length of the sheets being conveyed; and

air jet means for jetting air toward an outer peripheral surface of said intermediate cylinder so that [[said]] a sheet delivered to said intermediate cylinder is stretched along said outer peripheral surface.

Claim 2 (Original): The sheet-fed press as set forth in claim 1, wherein the jet of air by said air jet means is performed on the outer peripheral surface of said intermediate cylinder in a range of 45 degrees, measured downward from a position where said sheet is received by said intermediate cylinder, with a rotation axis of said intermediate cylinder as center.

Claim 3 (Original): The sheet-fed press as set forth in claim 1 wherein:
a reverse-side printing unit and an obverse-side printing unit are arranged along a traveling path for said sheet;
said reverse-side printing unit is operative to perform printing on the under side of said sheet being traveled;
said obverse-side printing unit is operative to perform printing on the upper side of said sheet being traveled; and
said intermediate cylinder is used between said reverse-side printing unit and said obverse-side printing unit;

Claim 4 (Original): The sheet-fed press as set forth in claim 3, wherein said reverse-side printing unit and said obverse-side printing unit are arranged from the upstream side of the sheet traveling direction in the recited order.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) A sheet-fed press ~~as set forth in claim 4~~ including an intermediate cylinder to convey a sheet, said intermediate cylinder comprising:

a main body;

a plurality of suction boxes formed in said main body at positions different with respect to a rotation axis of said main body;

a plurality of suction bores formed in said suction boxes so that they are open at an outer peripheral surface of said main body;

suction force generation means for generating suction force within said suction boxes;

switching means for selectively switching connections between said plurality of suction boxes and said suction force generation means;

air jet means for jetting air toward an outer peripheral surface of said intermediate cylinder so that said sheet delivered to said intermediate cylinder is stretched along said outer peripheral surface;

wherein a reverse-side printing unit and an obverse-side printing unit are arranged from an upstream side of a sheet traveling direction in the recited order along a traveling path for said sheet,

said reverse-side printing unit being operative to perform printing on the under side of said sheet being traveled;

said obverse-side printing unit being operative to perform printing on the upper side of said sheet being traveled;

said intermediate cylinder being used between said reverse-side printing unit and said obverse-side printing unit; and

further comprising imaging means provided under said intermediate cylinder, said imaging means being operative to photograph the reverse side of said sheet to inspect printing quality of said reverse side.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A sheet-fed press including an intermediate cylinder which is operable to individually convey [[a]] sheets of varied lengths, said intermediate cylinder comprising:

a main body;

a plurality of suction boxes formed in said main body at positions, which are individually set based on the lengths of the sheets, different with respect to a rotation axis of said main body;

a plurality of suction bores formed in said suction boxes so that they are open at an outer peripheral surface of said main body;

suction force generation means for generating suction force within said suction boxes;

switching means for selectively switching connections between said plurality of suction boxes and said suction force generation means corresponding to the length of the sheets being conveyed;

an actuator connected to said switching means for actuating said switching means; and

air jet means for jetting air toward an outer peripheral surface of said intermediate cylinder so that said sheet delivered to said intermediate cylinder is stretched along said outer peripheral surface.

Claim 7 (Original): The sheet-fed press as set forth in claim 6, wherein the jet of air by said air jet means is performed on the outer peripheral surface of said intermediate cylinder in a range of 45 degrees, measured downward from a position where said sheet is received by said intermediate cylinder, with a rotation axis of said intermediate cylinder as center.

Claim 8 (Original): The sheet-fed press as set forth in claim 6 wherein:
a reverse-side printing unit and an obverse-side printing unit are arranged along a traveling path for said sheet;
said reverse-side printing unit is operative to perform printing on the under side of said sheet being traveled;
said obverse-side printing unit is operative to perform printing on the upper side of said sheet being traveled; and
said intermediate cylinder is used between said reverse-side printing unit and said obverse-side printing unit.

Claim 9 (Original): The sheet-fed press as set forth in claim 8, wherein said reverse-side printing unit and said obverse-side printing unit are arranged from the upstream side of the sheet traveling direction in the recited order.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A sheet-fed press ~~as set forth in claim 9~~ including an intermediate cylinder to convey a sheet, said intermediate cylinder comprising:

- a main body;
- a plurality of suction boxes formed in said main body at positions different with respect to a rotation axis of said main body;
- a plurality of suction bores formed in said suction boxes so that they are open at an outer peripheral surface of said main body;
- suction force generation means for generating suction force within said suction boxes;
- switching means for selectively switching connections between said plurality of suction boxes and said suction force generation means;
- an actuator connected to said switching means for actuating said switching means;
- air jet means for jetting air toward an outer peripheral surface of said intermediate cylinder so that said sheet delivered to said intermediate cylinder is stretched along said outer peripheral surface,

wherein a reverse-side printing unit and an obverse-side printing unit are arranged from an upstream side of a sheet traveling direction in the recited order along a traveling path for said sheet;

said reverse-side printing unit being operative to perform printing on the under side of said sheet being traveled;

said obverse-side printing unit being operative to perform printing on the upper side of said sheet being traveled;

said intermediate cylinder being used between said reverse-side printing unit and said obverse-side printing unit; and

further comprising imaging means provided under said intermediate cylinder, said imaging means being operative to photograph the reverse side of said sheet to inspect printing quality of said reverse side.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A sheet-fed press including an intermediate cylinder which is operable to individually convey [[a]] sheets of varied lengths, said intermediate cylinder comprising:

a main body;

a plurality of suction boxes formed in said main body at positions, which are individually set based on the lengths of the sheets, different with respect to a rotation axis of said main body;

a plurality of suction bores formed in said suction boxes so that they are open at an outer peripheral surface of said main body;

a suction pump to generate suction force within said suction boxes;

a switching valve to switch connections between said plurality of suction boxes and said suction pump selectively corresponding to the length of the sheets being conveyed; and

an air shower to jet air toward an outer peripheral surface of said intermediate cylinder so that said sheet delivered to said intermediate cylinder is stretched along said outer peripheral surface.